



OUTDOOR RECREATION COALITION OF ALBERTA



Who is ORCA?

*The Outdoor Recreation Coalition of Alberta (ORCA) is a growing coalition of recreation user groups and individuals dedicated to ensuring **there is access to low impact, non-motorized outdoor recreation opportunities in Alberta, and that these activities are supported, recognized and valued for their social, health and economic benefits.***

- **What do we do?**
- We **ADVOCATE** for the interests of low impact, non-motorized outdoor recreationists.
- We **COLLABORATE** with recreation user groups, individuals, and businesses and professional organizations who support low impact, non-motorized outdoor activities.
- We **LISTEN to** what the needs and wants of the outdoor recreation sector.
- We **INFORM** recreationists about government policies, initiatives and legislation that affect non-motorized recreation in Alberta and provide ideas and advice about actions that can be taken in response.



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Presentation outline

- Introduction to ORCA
- ORCA's Statement on Coal in Alberta
- Outdoor Recreation in Alberta
- Value of Outdoor Recreation
- Economic Diversification and Amenity Migration
- Ecosystem Services and Outdoor Recreation in Alberta
- Recreation Planning in Alberta – gains, issues and needs
- Payoffs from Coal – not a good return for Alberta



ORCA's Statement on Coal

ORCA is committed to providing a voice for non-motorized recreationists, and for contributions to health, well-being and economic diversification that this sector provides to Albertans and Alberta.

ORCA respectfully submits to the Coal Policy Committee that to fully realize the need for healthy intact landscapes for the health and well-being of Albertans, and the promise of an outdoor recreation economy and the significant contributions this sector provides, coal mining along Alberta's East Slopes should not be permitted.



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Outdoor Recreation in Alberta

- Millions of Albertans engage in outdoor recreation each year.
- 76% of Albertans engage in outdoor recreation, and 87% want wilderness protected from development and degradation.
- 98% chose protection of water over industrial development.
- 94% chose protection of wildlife over industrial development.



From: Albertan's Attitudes and Values towards Recreation and Wilderness – Final Report. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the Praxis Group. September 2015.



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Value of Outdoor Recreation

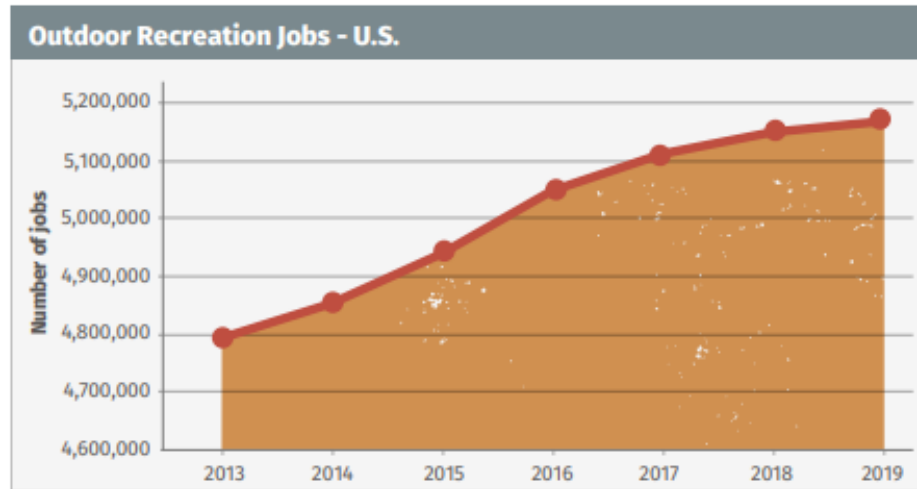
- Outdoor recreation is an important economic driver in Alberta.
- Visitors to Alberta's parks spend \$1.1 billion/yr, and sustain more than 23,489 person years of employment.
- Alberta Hiking Association estimates economic activity of hiking alone contributes more than \$1 billion /yr.
- In the USA – outdoor recreation economy accounted for \$459.9 billion of GDP in 2019 – and the benefits were greatest in the 'Rocky Mt. States'.
- Outdoor recreation in Washington state supports \$26.5 billion in annual expenditures and supports 264,000 jobs.



Outdoor Recreation in the USA – a major contributor to GDP

Outdoor recreation is a large and growing employer.

Nationwide, outdoor recreation employed almost 5.2 million people in 2019 who earned more than \$226.3 billion dollars.¹ For comparison, outdoor recreation employs about the same number of people as are employed in the nation's hospitals, and twice the number employed in farming.



Outdoor recreation is a large contributor to GDP.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimates the contribution of outdoor recreation in terms of its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2019 the value-added contribution of outdoor recreation to the U.S. economy was \$459.8 billion, representing 2.1% of GDP.¹



From: 'Inspiring the Future Recreation Economy' State Outdoor Business Alliance Network. June 2021. A report by Headwaters Economics, Bozeman, MT.
<https://headwaterseconomics.org>



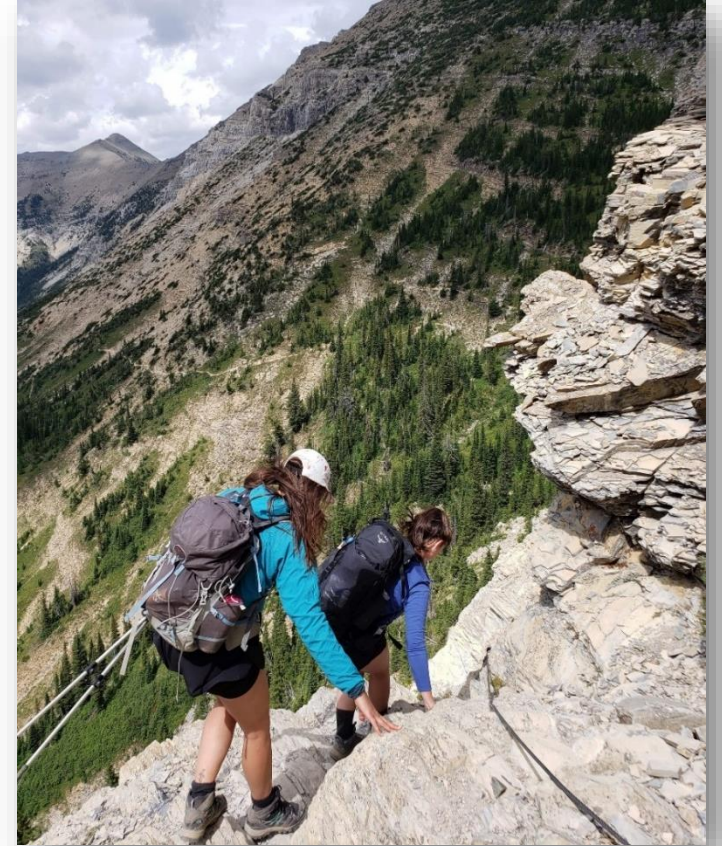
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Outdoor Recreation and Amenity Migration

Amenity migration occurs when people move to a desirable location or region, usually for non-economic reasons.

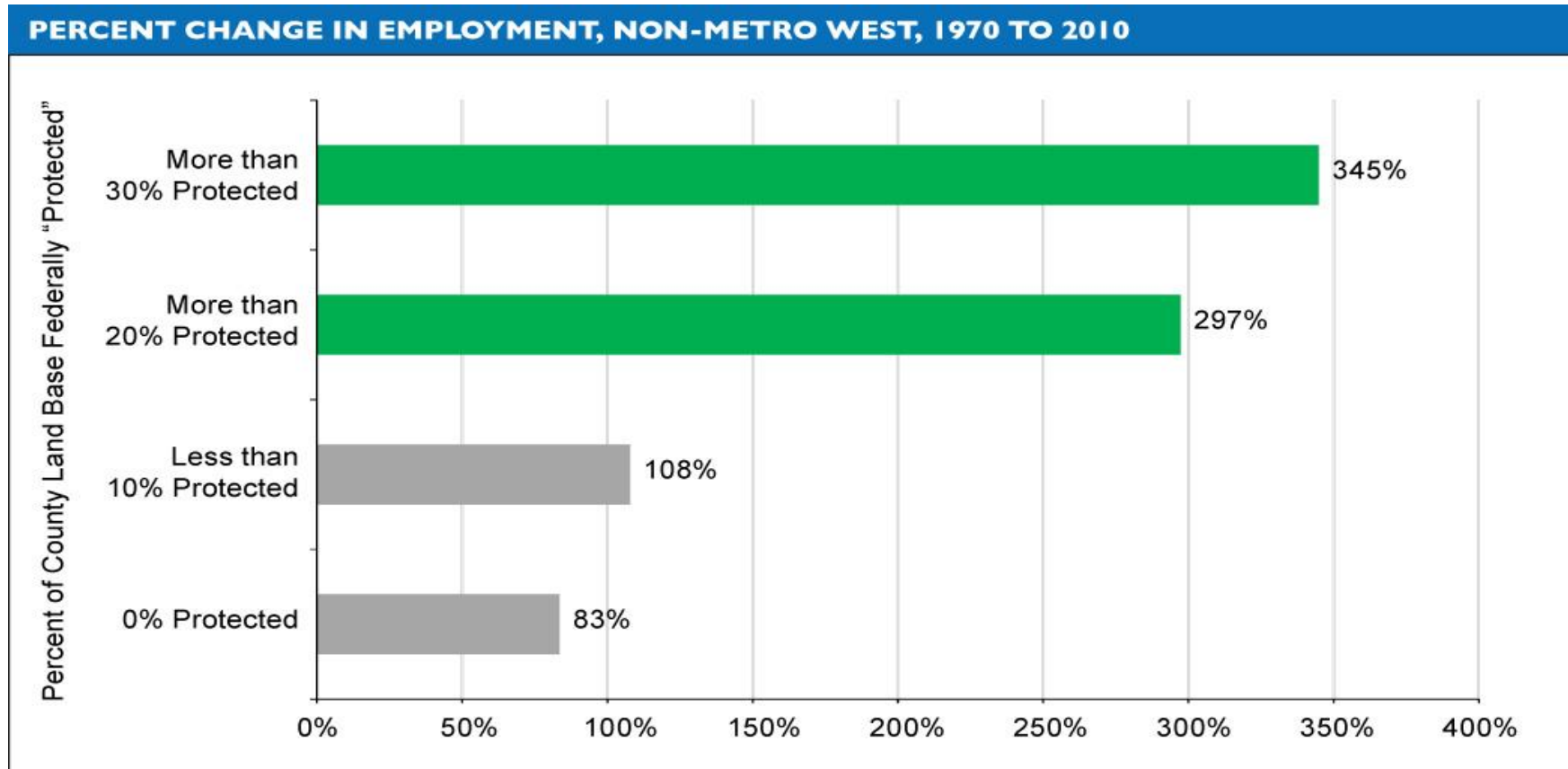
- Protection of landscapes, recreation opportunities and provision of local services like health care, schools and reasonable access to airports are migration draws
- In the USA – rural counties with 30% of land base protected experienced a 345% increase in economic growth; counties with 10% protected experienced 90% growth.

From: https://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/West_Is_Best_Full_Report.pdf



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Economic advantages of ‘protected’ land bases in the western USA (with the added benefit of outdoor recreation opportunities)



From: https://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/West_Is_Best_Full_Report.pdf



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Outdoor recreation contributes to economic success in many ways.



From: 'Inspiring the Future Recreation Economy' State Outdoor Business Alliance Network. June 2021. A report by Headwaters Economics, Bozeman, MT.
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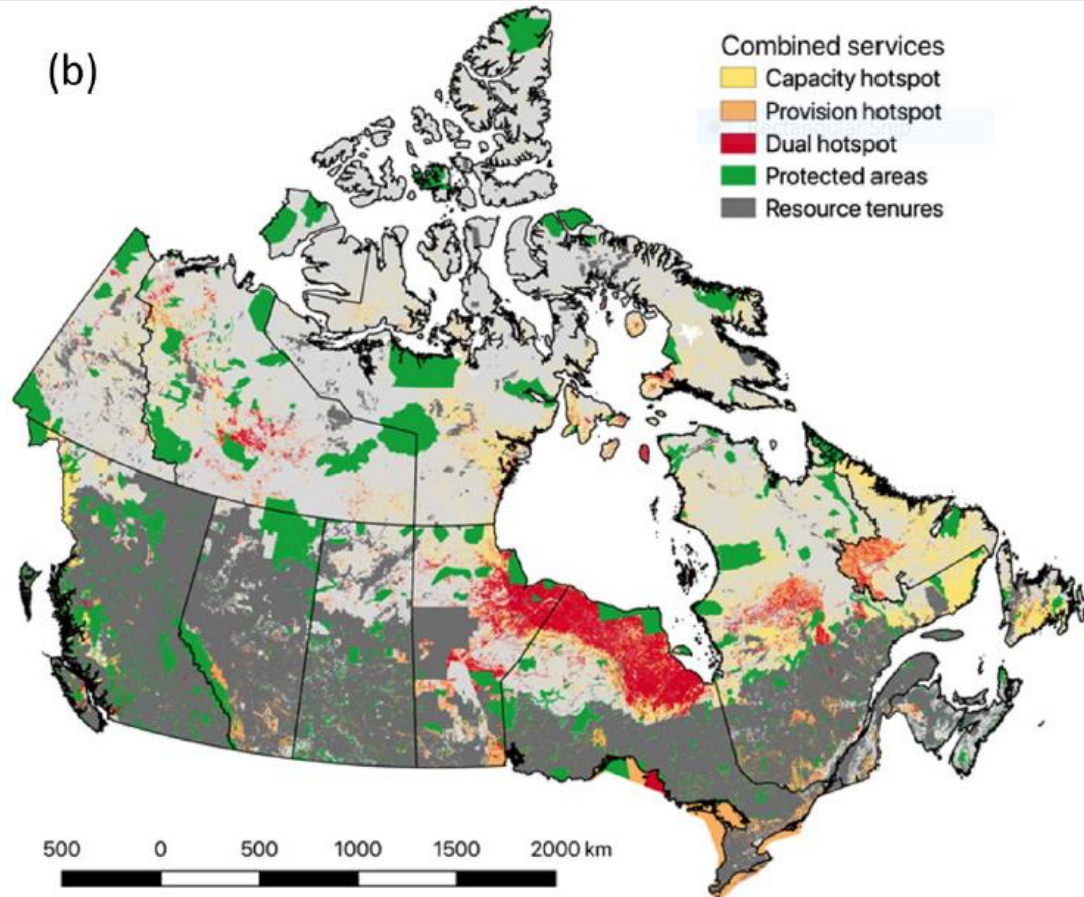
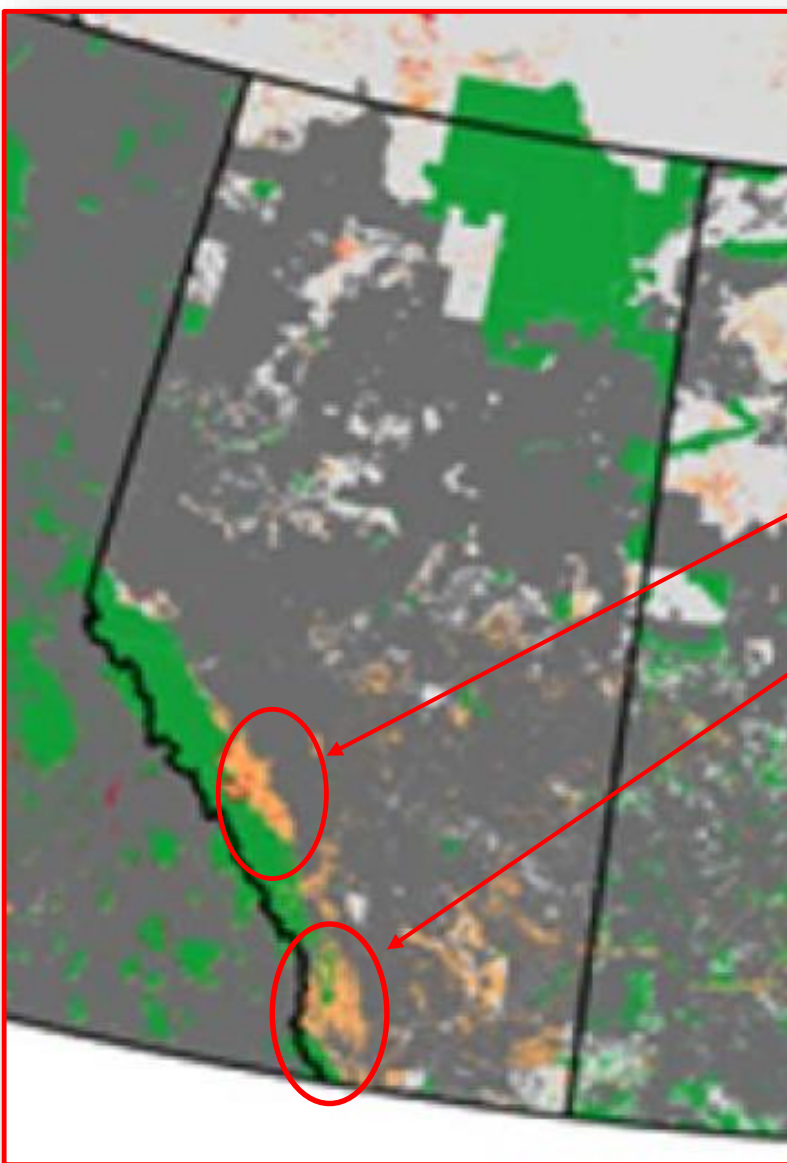


Figure 4. (a) Overlap of ecosystem service provision hotspots between carbon, freshwater and nature-based recreation and (b) combined ecosystem service capacity and provision hotspots in Canada outside of current protected areas and resource extraction tenures (petroleum, mining, oil sands and forestry tenures, and croplands).

Ecosystem service capacity and provision hotspots outside of current protected areas and resource extraction tenures.

From: Mitchell, Matthew G.E., et al, 'Identifying Key Ecosystem Service Providing Areas to inform national-scale conservation planning'. Environmental Research – letters. January 5, 2021.





Ecosystem capacity and provision – water, carbon and outdoor recreation hotspots in Alberta:

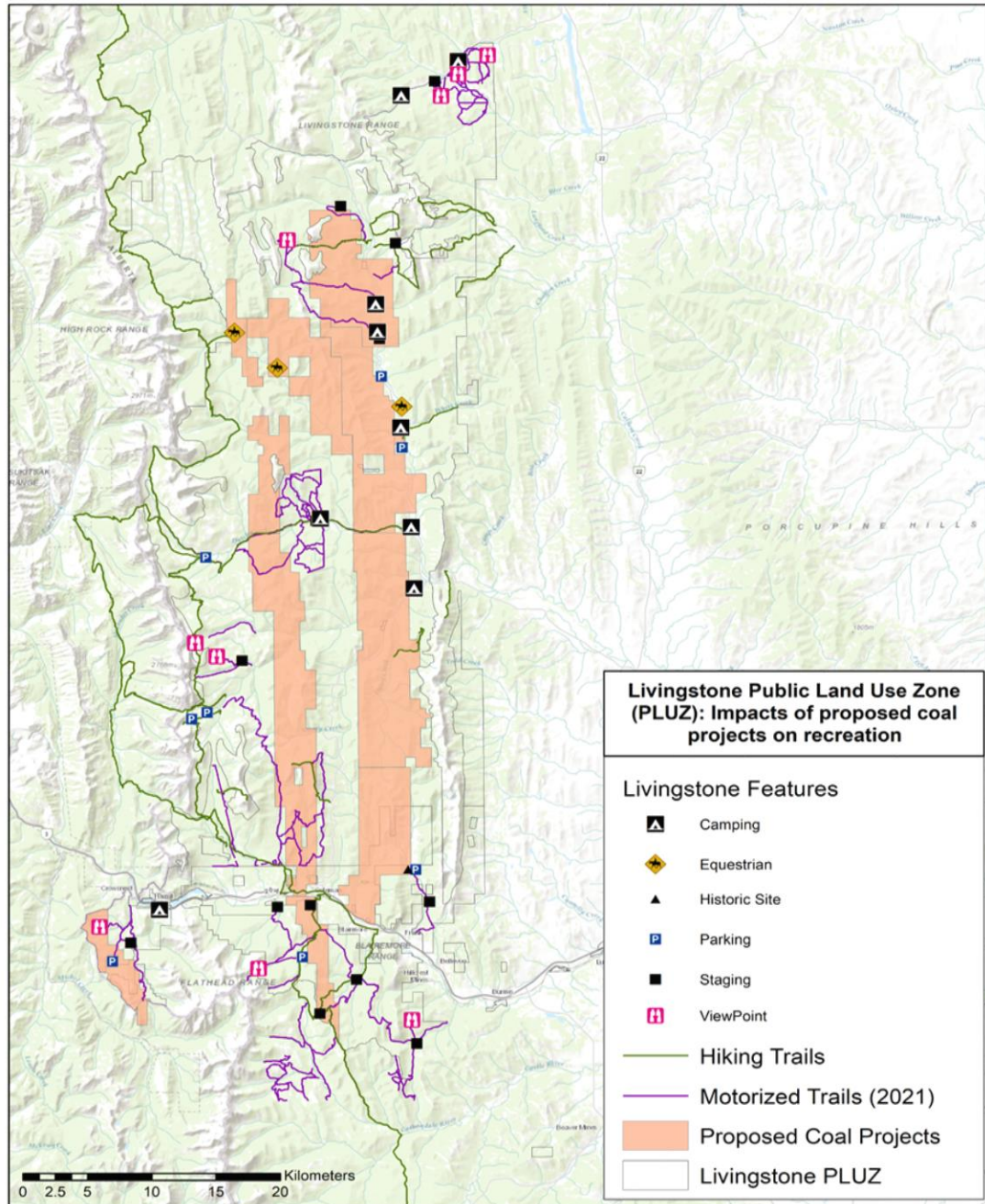
- Bighorn - West Country region
- South west Alberta – Livingstone-Porcupine Hills region

Coal development threatens these essential ecosystem services.

From: Mitchell, Matthew G.E., et al, 'Identifying Key Ecosystem Service Providing Areas to inform national-scale conservation planning'. Environmental Research – letters. January 5, 2021.

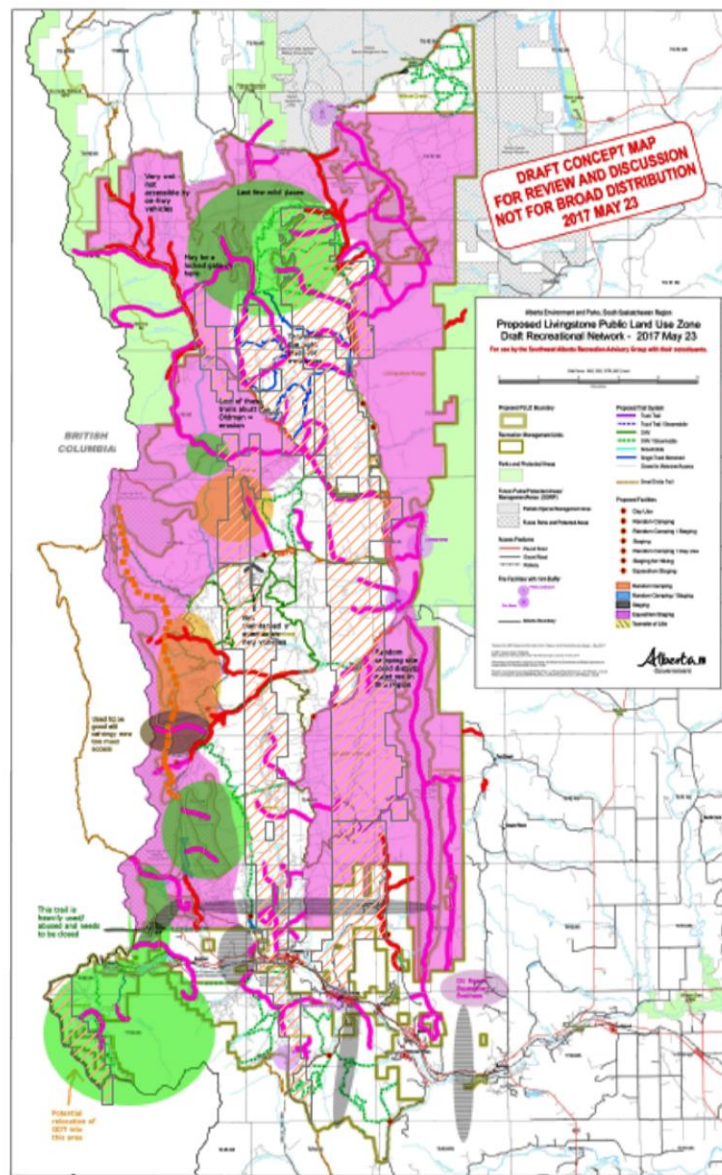


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Livingstone Public Land Use Zone –
Impacts of proposed coal projects
on recreation.

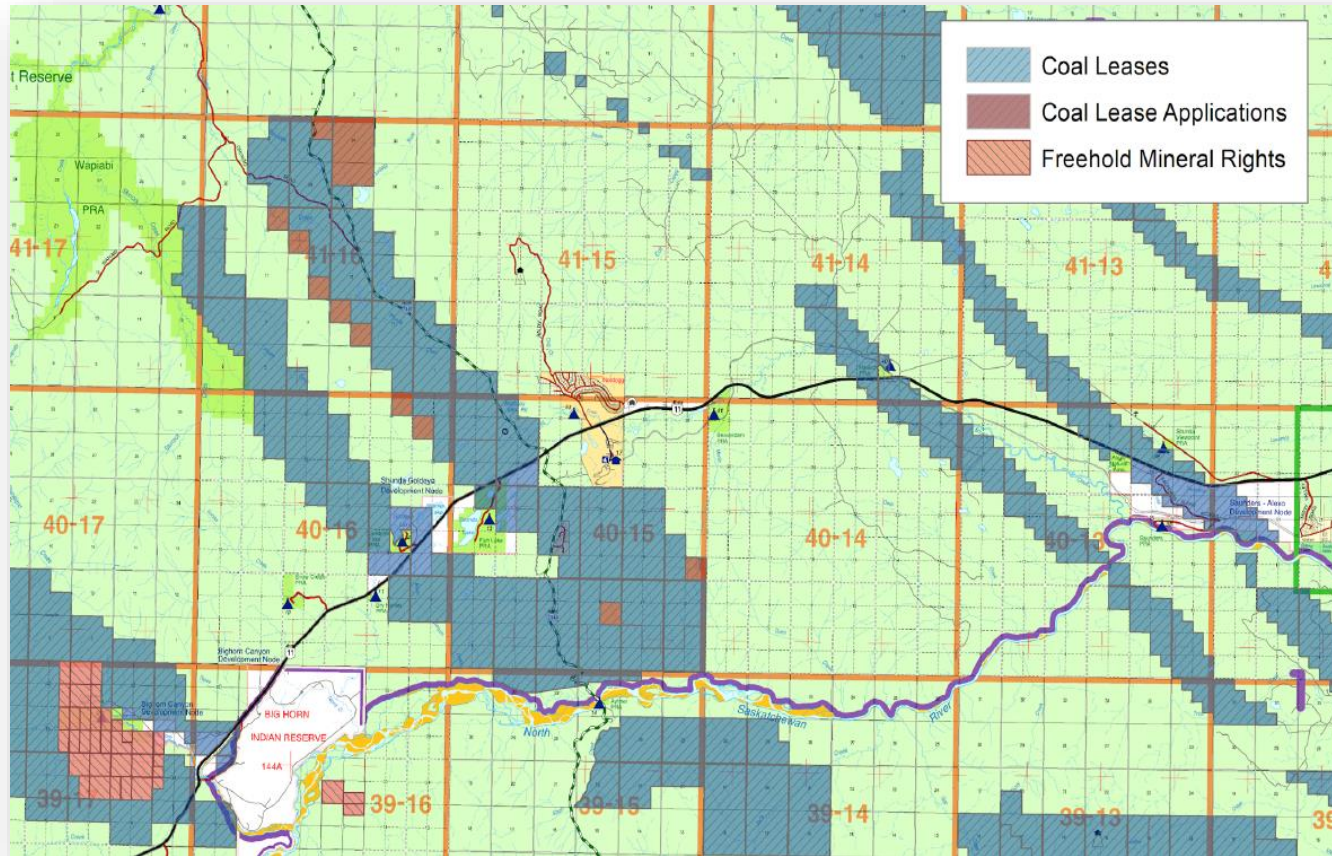
Current map - Livingstone-
Porcupine Hills Recreation
Management Plan (under the
SSRP)



Proposed Coal footprint on recreation trails and amenities.

Map developed by local people in SW Alberta as input to the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills Recreation Management Plan.

Proposed coal footprint in the West Country



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Coal – not a good return for Alberta

- Coal mining in Alberta – fraught with boom and bust cycles (the story of Grande Cache; TECK in Hinton)
- Jobs in the coal sector have gone from 2985 (1998) to 925 (2004) to 1300-1700 (post 2004).
- Royalties from coal development are very low – AWA estimated royalties in 2019-20 to be \$12.8 million. By comparison, the tourism levy provided an estimated \$89 million.
- Loss of critical habitat for species at risk; loss of landscape use for other economies (ranching, forestry, tourism)
- Major environmental liabilities and reclamation funding shortfalls – a story as long as Alberta is old.



Thank you

Presenters:

Connie Simmons, Chair – ORCA

Brent Dancey, Director – ORCA

Marla Zapach, Vice President – Alberta Hiking Association and ecotourism operator



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A group of hikers with large backpacks are walking away from the camera on a dirt trail. The trail is surrounded by green grass and small evergreen trees. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains with steep, rocky slopes and some snow patches. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The word "Questions?" is written in a large, white, serif font across the middle of the image.

Questions?